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SERVICE DATE - MARCH 5, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB EX PARTE NO. 290 (SUB-NO. 4)
RAILROAD COST RECOVERY PROCEDURES-PRODUCTIVITY ADJUSTMENT

Decided: March 4, 1998

In our February 9, 1998 decision (Decision) in this proceeding, we proposed to adopt 1.096 (9.6% per year) as the measure of average growth in railroad productivity for the 1992-1996 (5-year) averaging period. Due to a changeover in our computer system, the figure for ton-miles of revenue freight used to calculate the 1996 output index was not exactly accurate. Applying the accurate revenue freight figure produces an output index for 1996 of 1.038, not 1.031 (Decision Table B), which results in a productivity change for 1996 of 1.137, not 1.129 (Decision Table B). As a result, we now propose to adopt 1.097 (9.7% per year) as the measure of average growth in railroad productivity for the 1992-1996 (5-year) averaging period.

The comment period is extended to March 16, 1998. Comments may be filed addressing any perceived data and computational errors in our calculation. Any party proposing a different estimate of productivity growth must, at the time it files comments, furnish the Board with detailed work papers and documentation underlying its calculations. The same information must be made available to other parties upon request.

It is ordered:

1. Comments are due by March 16, 1998.
2. An original and 15 copies must be filed with:

Office of the Secretary
Case Control Branch
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423

3. Comments must be served on all parties appearing on the current service list.

STB Ex Parte No. 290 (Sub-No. 4)

4. Unless a further order is issued postponing the effective date, the productivity adjustment will become effective March 31, 1998.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary